

Gal.4:1-7

The Adoption of Believers

- in these verses Paul expands the analogy of a child's coming of age

(The first reference he made was in 3:24-26)

- Paul uses the terms "children and servants" to portray the believer's life before salvation and "sons" for life after one is saved

*Jew and Gentile alike would understand this illustration as they both had celebrations to mark a child becoming an adult

vs.1- "child" - (nepios) an infant, minor, one not of age

*this word differs from the word "children" found in 3:26

(that word is "huios" and means a son or person of age that is in possession of inheritance)

- "differeth nothing from a servant" - in their culture, a child would be appointed as heir to his father's will but until he reaches legal age, he is the master of nothing

vs.2- "under" - meaning subject to their control and direction

- "tutors" - (epitropos) a curator, guardian, or overseer

- "governor" - (oikonomos) manager of household affairs

*the tutors supervised the person while the governor supervised the property

- "appointed of the father" - the time in which the child was deemed an adult

(This was determined in writing by the father only- the child is then eligible for the inheritance)

vs.3- now Paul draws the connection and makes the application

- "children" - same word as in vs.1 (nepios)

*just as minors were servants even though heirs, Paul uses the same analogy to show how all were under bondage until the Father's appointed time

- "elements of the world" - the idea of this phrase denotes things placed in a row such as the alphabet or something with it specifically being the first principle

*The Law was not the science of salvation, it was only the alphabet (first principle) of it

vs.4- "fulness of time" - the time that was deemed appropriate by God

- "made of woman" - meaning that He came in the flesh

- "under the Law" - meaning He was a Jew and subject to it

*He made Himself subject to it to secure our redemption

*William R. Bright- "with Christ we have an endless hope, without Him, we have a hopeless end"

vs.5- "redeem" (exagorazo) to pay a price to recover from the power of another, a ransom

Truth- Christ's death met the demands of God's wrath for mankind's failure under the Law

- "law" - (nomos) a generic term meaning any law or rule

*Paul uses this word to include Gentiles as they were never under Mosaic Law

(They were however under the law of conscience- Rom.2:14-15)

- "adoption" - meaning placed and recognized as an adult son- fully delivered from the child-servant status

*adoption itself is the act bringing someone who is the offspring of another into one's own family

-By nature, we are the children of sin but have been purchased (redeemed) and brought into the family of God (adopted)

Truth- adopted children are given all privileges and position in the family that has adopted them

(Adopted children cannot be disowned or lose their inheritance)

vs.6- "Spirit" - the Holy Spirit confirms in the believer of their adoption as God's child

- "Abba" - a term of endearment

*while an immature child is under supervision, he doesn't fully appreciate his father, but when he reaches maturity, he begins to realize who his father is and how much he has actually done for his child

vs.7- the analogy of this is that we are no longer as the same status as a slave, but now have been given full sonship (redemption) and an eternal inheritance